

tion, since a son of the caretaker of the estate, a high school student, informed me that he had counted 34 birds in flight from one pond to another led by the two dark birds, and I also learned from him that a pair had been present the year previous.—FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Pa.*

The Egret at Wildwood Lake, Dauphin County, Penna.—I have just learned that the Egret (*Casmerodius egretta*) which was liberated at Wildwood Lake, near Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, on July 17, 1925, was last seen in this region by Mr. Merrill Wood of Harrisburg, on September 12 and 13, 1925. He watched for the bird on subsequent dates, but it was seen no more.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Penna.*

Little Black Rail in Illinois.—I am led, through Mr. Frank M. Woodruff's note published in 'The Auk,' for January, 1926, as well as through recent correspondence with Mr. Henry K. Coale of Highland Park, Illinois, to believe that my only record for the Little Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi*, presumably) for Illinois may be of considerable interest.

On May 30, 1910, while a number of us were walking along a stream which flows almost through the town of Eureka, Woodford County, Illinois, a Little Black Rail jumped up from the short marsh grass at our feet and fluttered away. Thinking that it was a young Redwing I pursued, and after a long chase, during which the Rail alighted and flushed about a half dozen times, succeeded in frightening it from the vicinity of the grass where it was most difficult to follow.

Finally I captured it, and was amazed to find a red-eyed, beautifully spotted Rail in my hands. I took it home, where I kept it for two weeks. It died, probably of starvation. Unfortunately the poor skin, which I preserved at the time, was lost upon our moving to Texas.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Penna.*

Little Black Rail in Illinois.—In the January 1926 issue of 'The Auk,' Vol. XLIII, p. 90, Mr. Frank M. Woodruff reports the capture of a Black Rail in Chicago, and remarks, "Since Nelson's record of June 19, 1875, . . . I can find no authentic record of the taking of the bird" (in Illinois). Mr. Woodruff has evidently overlooked the fact that in 'The Auk,' Vol. XL, 1923, pp. 88-90, Mr. Henry K. Coale records a specimen of this bird, now in the Field Museum, taken at South Chicago, Illinois, May 30, 1916, by H. L. Stoddard. This specimen is the type of the new subspecies described and illustrated in the article by Mr. Coale as *Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi*, and is supposed to differ from the Jamaican bird and also from the Californian form.

There is another record for Illinois, though the bird was not taken. Isaac E. Hess ('Auk,' Vol. XXVII, 1910, p. 31) found a nest of two eggs of this species in the Embarras Swamp, Champaign Co., on May 30, 1901. The eggs were left undisturbed in order that a full set might be

taken, but unfortunately a cow destroyed them.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Evanston, Illinois.*

Occurrence of King Rail about New York City in Winter.—On February 1, 1926, during a rather severe northeast hail storm, the writer had the good fortune to pick up a dead King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), at Hunts Point, in the lower Bronx region, New York City, found by the merest chance while crossing the tidal marsh. The plumage was heavily coated with ice, but otherwise the bird was in fairly good condition, barring a few damaged feathers on the side of the head. After thawing the bird was limp, and seemingly quite fresh, with no evidence whatever of decomposition about it. It proved to be an adult male, and Mr. W. DeW. Miller of the American Museum of Natural History, to whom the specimen was brought, examined it, and was able to have the skin preserved for the Museum's collection. The stomach was practically empty. An injury to the left-wing, disabling the bird, probably hastened death from exposure.

The date is, of course, abnormal, and the fact that the bird was found on a tidal salt marsh is notable in view of the species' partiality to fresh-water swamps. This is to my knowledge the second local record; the first being a sight identification of an individual of this species which spent at least a week in a deep fresh-water swamp, directly east of the Jerome Reservoir, N. Y. City and which was observed there April 20–21, 1925 and several days thereafter, by A. D. Cruickshank, the writer, and others.—JOHN F. KUERZI, *Bronx, N. Y. City.*

Red Phalarope at Sea 100 miles west of Gibraltar.—On October 25, 1925 a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) flew on board the Isthmian Line Steamship "Steel Seafarer" when about 100 miles due west of Gibraltar. It was found dead, was skinned by the writer and is now in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass. The bird was a male with minute testes and the stomach was empty save for some grit. This record is of interest in connection with the distribution of the species as given by Meinertzhagen in 'The Ibis' for April, 1925, and helps to fill the gap between his October record for the southwest coast of England and his November record for the Straits of Gibraltar.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *32 Garden Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Black-necked Stilt in Winter on the North Carolina Coast.—On December 3, 1925 a Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) was killed by Mr. Peters of the Narrow's Island Shooting Club on the Club property near Poplar Branch, Currituck Co., N. C. It is being mounted for the Club collection.

Dr. Geo. Bird Grinnell who is President of our Club writes me that there is a specimen of this bird which was killed in North Carolina in the Museum of Trinity College, Durham, N. C. The bird killed by Mr. Peters was an adult male in very fine plumage. The bird must now be